

COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

USE: Recreational Fishing

Station Name: St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge

Date Established: July 9, 1968

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities: Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 USC 715d)

PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE REFUGE WAS ESTABLISHED: "...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds."

REFUGE OBJECTIVES: Goals and objectives of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Attachment 1) provide the framework for refuge objectives which are: (1) threatened and endangered species maintenance and production; (2) migratory bird maintenance and production; (3) the maintenance of native habitat types and their associated wildlife species; (4) environmental education; (5) wildlife interpretation; (6) compatible wildlife oriented recreation.

OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES: National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee); Refuge Recreation Act as amended (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4); Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations Parts 26-32; the Refuge Manual; Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq; 87 Stat. 884).

DESCRIPTION OF USE: Recreational fishing of bass and brim.

Transportation on the lakes is limited to electrically powered/non-motorized boats. The public is allowed to use Lakes 1 and 2 and Oyster Pond from April 15-September 30. Lakes 3, 4, and 5 are open to the public May 15-September 30. The lake system is closed the rest of the year to prevent disturbance to nesting bald eagles.

ANTICIPATED BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF THE USE: Past experience indicates that most of the impacts will involve some violation of refuge regulations, e.g., disturbing wildlife, removing plants, littering, or vandalism.

NEPA COMPLIANCE: (Environmental Action Memorandum Attached)

Categorical Exclusion _____

Environmental Assessment X

Environmental Impact Statement _____

FONSI X

DETERMINATION: (Check One)

This use is compatible X This use is not compatible

STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:

Law enforcement patrol of public use areas should continue to minimize the above-mentioned types of violations.

The current regulation which restricts use to daylight hours should also be maintained.

In addition, the closing of the lake system during bald eagle nesting season to prevent disturbance should continue.

Biological data will be collected and analyzed for use in determining seasons, creel limits, and refuge-specific regulations, and for monitoring water quality and overall condition of the fisheries resource.

Refuge fishing seasons and regulations will complement state laws and regulations as much as possible.

All or parts of the refuge may be closed to fishing at any time if necessary for public safety, to provide wildlife sanctuary, or for administrative reasons.

Lake transportation will be limited to electrically powered/non-motorized boats.

JUSTIFICATION: Recreational fishing will allow the consumptive use of a renewable resource without adverse impact on wildlife populations, habitat, or other refuge objectives.

PROJECT LEADER:

Donald J. Kosin 6-13-94
(Signature/Date)

REVIEWED BY:

Ann E. Jefferson 6/20/94
District Manager (Signature/Title/Date)

Sam O. Drake Jr. 6-21-94
Acting ARD/ARW (Signature/Title/Date)

Attachment 1

GOALS OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

To preserve, restore, and enhance in their natural ecosystems (when practicable) all species of animals and plants that are endangered or threatened with becoming endangered.

To perpetuate the migratory bird resource.

To preserve a natural diversity and abundance of fauna and flora on refuge lands.

To provide an understanding and appreciation of fish and wildlife ecology and man's role in his environment, and to provide refuge visitors with high quality, safe, wholesome, and enjoyable recreational experiences oriented toward wildlife to the extent these activities are compatible with the purpose for which the refuge was established.

Literature Reviewed

- Anderson, R.O. 1983. Managing ponds for good fishing. University of Missouri, Columbia Extension Division, 4pp.
- Bennett, G.W. 1971. Management of lakes and ponds. 2nd edition. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company. New York, New York. 375pp.
- Boyd, C.E. 1979. Water quality in warmwater fish ponds. Auburn University, Alabama. 359pp.
- Calhoun, A. 1966. Inland fisheries management. California Department of Fish and Game. 564pp.
- Carlander, D. 1977. Handbook of freshwater fishery biology. Volume two. Iowa State University Press. Ames, Iowa. 431pp.
- Dequine, J.F. Management of Florida's fresh-water fisheries. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. 1948; 78(1): 38-41.
- Dillon Jr., O.W., W.W. Neely, V.E. Davison and L.V. Compton. 1971. Warmwater fish ponds. U.S.D.A. Farmer's Bulletin No. 2250. 14pp.
- Huish, M.T. 1971. A Color Variation of Bluegill Sunfish, Lepomis Macrochirus. Bulletin of the Georgia Academy of Science 29: 183-184.
- Hushak, L. J.; Morse, G.W.; Apraki, K.K. Regional impacts of fishery allocation to sport and commercial interests: A case study of Ohio's portion of Lake Erie, NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT. 1986; 6(4): 472-480.
- Lewis, G.W. 1981. Management of sport fishing ponds. University of Georgia. Cooperative Extension Service, Bulletin 732. 24pp.
- Noble, R.L. 1981. Management of forage fishes in impoundments of the Southern United States. Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc. 110: 738-740pp.
- Piper, R.G., I. B. McElwain, L. E. Orme, J. P. McCraren, L.G. Fowler and J. R. Leonard. 1982. Fishery hatchery management. U.S.D.I. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C. 517pp.
- Report of the National Technical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Interior. Water quality criteria. 1968. U.S. Government Printing Office. Washington, D.C. 234pp.

Tebo, L. B., Jr. and E. G. McCoy. 1964. Effect of sea-water concentration on the reproduction of largemouth bass and bluegills. Prog. Fish-Cult. 26(3): 99-106.

Traver, D.P., J.A. Rogers, M.J. Mahler and R. L. Lazor. 1979. Aquatic and wetland plants of Florida, 2nd edition. Florida Department of Natural Resources. Tallahassee, Florida. 127pp.

Attachment 1A

Recreation Act Funding Analysis Form

STATION NAME: St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge

DATE ESTABLISHED: July 9, 1968

PURPOSE(S) FOR WHICH THE REFUGE WAS ESTABLISHED: "...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds."

RECREATIONAL USE(S) EVALUATED: Recreational fishing of bass and brim will allow the consumptive use of a renewable resource without adverse impact on wildlife populations, habitats, or other refuge objectives.

FUNDING REQUIRED TO ADMINISTER AND MANAGE THE RECREATIONAL USE(S): Law enforcement activities to provide resource and visitor protection: \$1000.00

Resource and public use monitoring: \$400.00

Based on a review of the refuge budget allocated for recreational use management, I certify that funding is adequate to ensure compatibility and to administer and manage recreational use(s).

PROJECT LEADER:

Donald J. Koin 6-13-94
(Signature/Date)

SECTION 7 EVALUATION

REGION: 4

LOCATION (ATTACHED MAP): ST. VINCENT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT CONSIDERED: Bald eagle

NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Continued fishing and open designated lakes earlier in the fishing season.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION:

To provide additional fishing opportunities.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT OF ACTION ON LISTED SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT:

A possible disturbance of nest sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO AVOID ADVERSE IMPACTS OR ENHANCE SPECIES CONSERVATION:

The primary zones were measured and fishing will not take place in this zone. In the secondary zone only boats with electric motors can be used during the fishing season. Lakes 1, 2, and Oyter Pond will be open from April 1 - September 30. Lakes 3, 4, and 5 will be open May 15 - September 30. The closed areas to fishing are patrolled on a regular basis by law enforcement officers.

REVISED: 7/88

SECTION 7 EVALUATION

PAGE 2

PROJECT LEADER Donald J. Kassin

DATE January 17, 1992

MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT: _____

NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT: ☒

COMMENTS:

FWE FIELD SUPERVISOR: L. A. Carmody

DATE 1/31/92

MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT: _____

NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT: ☒

COMMENTS:

ARD _____

DATE _____

MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT: _____

NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT: _____

COMMENTS:

ARD-FWE _____

DATE _____

MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT: _____

NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT: _____

COMMENTS:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR _____

DATE _____

NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT: _____

COMMENTS:

BIOLOGICAL OPINION: _____

REVISED: 7/88

SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Sport fishing on the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, Franklin County, Apalachicola, Florida is permitted as a use that is compatible with area's primary objectives of protection and management of endangered species and migratory birds. Fishing seasons are designed to minimize disturbances to endangered species such as nesting bald eagles.

Open freshwater areas, comprising 272 acres, are shown on the map. The provisions of these specific regulations supplement the regulations which govern fishing on wildlife refuge areas which are set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 33.

Sport fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations subject to the following specific regulations:

1. Fishing is permitted from sunrise to sunset.
2. Boats with electric motors permitted. All other motors must be removed from the boats and secured to motor rack with a lock and chain.
3. Boats may not be left on the refuge over night.
4. The use of live minnows as bait is not permitted.
5. Fishing is permitted in Lakes 1, 2, and Oyster Pond April 1 - September 30.
6. Fishing is permitted in Lakes 3, 4, and 5 May 15 - September 30.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

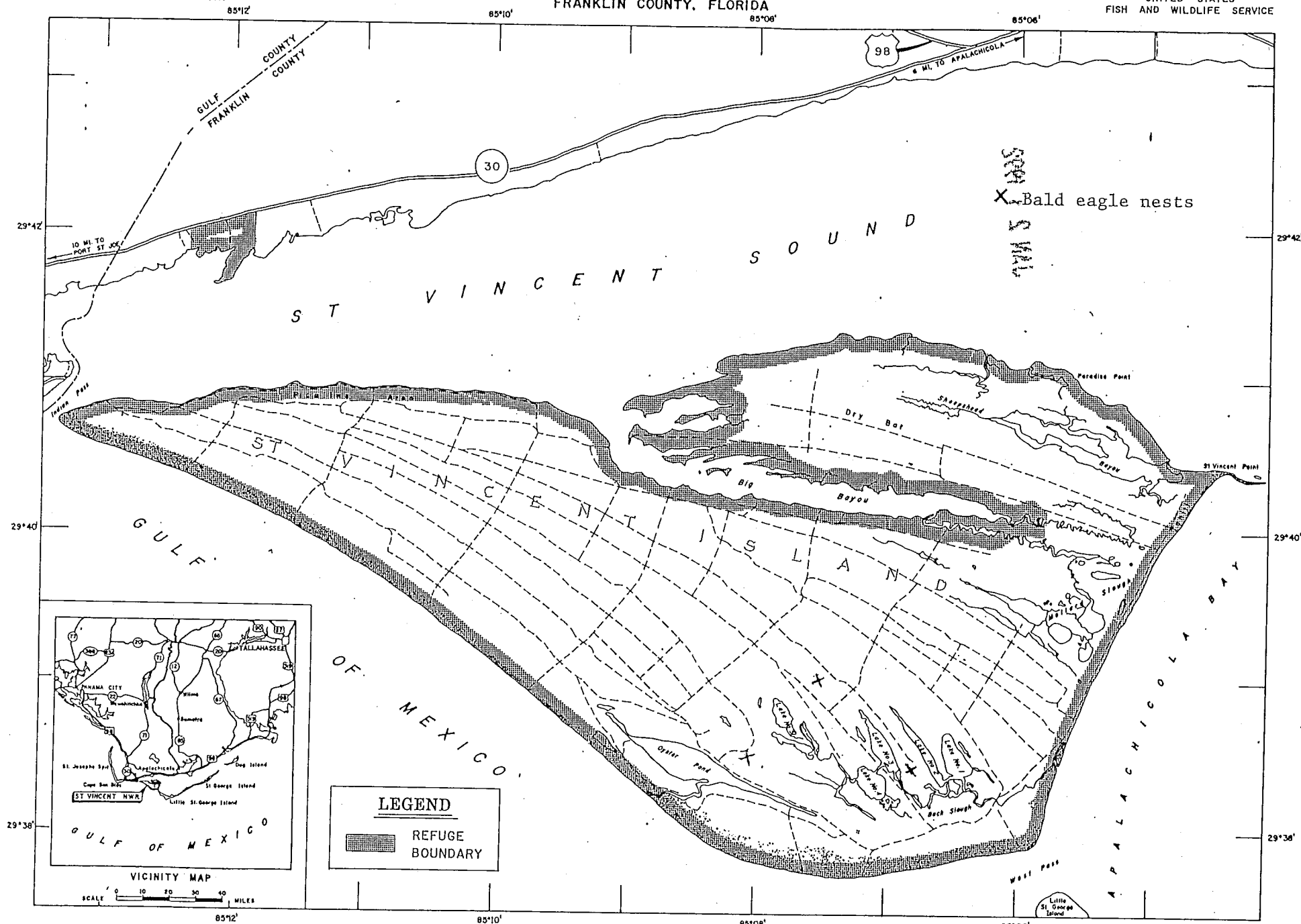
St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge is a 12,350 acre undeveloped barrier island located in Franklin County approximately 9 miles offshore from Apalachicola. The freshwater Lakes 1-5 can be reached from the island's east shoreline near West Pass. The Outlet Channel near West Pass may be used for access to Lakes 1-4. Lakes 1-5 are connected by small pole-boat channels. Access is easier with small boats. Therefore, tow boats are normally required to fish on St. Vincent Island; the usual pond-type jon boat (approximately 14') for use in the lake system and a larger boat for safe and efficient travel on coastal waters. Lake 5 cannot be reached by boat and has very limited fishing shoreline due to extreme-dense marsh vegetation. Oyster Pond can be reached by entering the pond's Outlet Channel on the island's south shoreline three miles west of West Pass. Lakes 1-4 cannot be reached by boat from Oyster Pond.

In addition to seasonal fishing in the interior lakes, year-round surf fishing is permitted, except in signed bird use/Closed Areas.

(NOTE) Oyster Pond was restocked with bass and red-ear sunfish in 1991 and fishing will not be beneficial until 1993.

ST. VINCENT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA



COMPILED IN THE DIVISION OF REALTY
FROM SURVEYS BY U.S.G.S. AND
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA MARCH, 1967
REVISED 10/86

Scale 0 2640 5280 10560 FEET
0 1/4 1/2 2 MILES

MEAN
DECLINATION
1966
4R FLA 794 403